

SEAFORTH PAC GENERAL MEETING

April 24, 2013

Executive in Attendance: MaryAnn Giardini, Shannon Derksen, Jennifer Duinkerke, Hark Sandhu, Cheryl Tong, Zena Kwan, Annie Hobson, Michelle Lee, Hark Sandhu, Patricia Fula, Jen Mezei

Regrets: Rhylin Bailie

Other Members in Attendance:

Meeting started 7:04 pm

Guest Speakers from Burnaby Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services:

- Donna Savoie (Community Program Co-ordinator)
- Robin Juergensen (Centre Supervisor – Cameron Recreation Centre)

Spring and summer program overview

Spring

- 'All Sports' program continues - Wed and Fri after school - multiple seasons of success
- 'Babysitter's Basics' - only 3 registered, they would like to have 8 - starts next week - Mondays 3:15 to 4:45 pm. **ACTION ITEM: MaryAnn to send out information from Donna.**
- All program information is available online or you can also access via Seaforth School website
- 'Kids kitchen' program - Thursdays - May - still have room. Time: 3:15 to 4:45 pm. It is held here at Seaforth.

Summer

- Leisure guide has been posted and available online
- Kids activity guide delivered in next day or two at school; all programs for summer are in this guide
- Camp Madawaska - outdoor adventure camp – location is Warner Loat Park - very popular – see details online. Activities include: shelter building, capture the flag, etc. This is a true outdoor adventure camp, no overnight, Mon to Thurs - Family night on Thursday.
- Question about soccer indoor program - can they do extra sessions? Answer: you can do wait list. They check the wait lists regularly.
- Summer swimming waitlists - same advice as above for the soccer.
- Comment: the all-girl camps during summer are booked during the same week as other camps - they can follow-up for the future and try to avoid this.
- Comment: there is a desire for all boys activities

- Kid's leisure guide - one per child gets sent out. Next week probably.
- Registration is open, go online.

Great Salmon Send-off

- Sat. May 11th - Stoney Creek Community School.
- Release 10,000 smelts into the creek
- Very meaningful and wonderful event
- 10am to 2pm
- 11 to 1pm release of smelts will occur - these fish are larger than the fry and fingerlings! Exciting!

Other Items

- Free Family Fun brochure was circulated.
- Special events will occur in the area as well - see website.
- Summer theatre in the park - brought back - at Charles Rummel.
- There will be a new mural on the side of Charles Rummel Community Centre! Information will be sent out – there will be community involvement to determine what the next mural will look like. Stakeholders contacted so far: community groups using Charles Rummel, preschool programs at centre, local folks that walk around the neighbourhood, Yoga programs - all of these groups have been invited to this discussion as well.

Robin Juergensen - new centre supervisor at Cameron Centre.

- Get in touch with Robin if there are things you would like to see at Cameron or things you think are getting well.
- Centre Supervisor 2, 604-415-3554, robin.juergensen@burnaby.ca
- Question: is Cameron library due for an update? Not at this time, we are encouraged to share this request with the library next time we go.

PAC BUSINESS – Vice Chair MaryAnn Giardini

- Approval of February General Meeting Minutes: 1st Jen Mezei, 2nd Siva Ramesh

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Wendell Hiltz

Discussion held re: adding 8 minutes to each school day to account for 2 week spring break. Options/suggestions raised during the meeting:

- 1) add four minutes to beginning and four minutes to end
 - 2) add three minutes to start of day, 5 minutes less of lunch (end of lunch would be affected)
 - 3) add 8 minutes to start of day
- Question: what are Caribou and Mountain schools are doing and are we co-ordinating with them? Answer: No we cannot as each school does this independently with their own staff, PAC and SPCs.

Option 1 – pros and cons and comments

- Hard to add 4 minutes to end of day - interferes with after school activities
- Small amounts of extra instruction time may be insignificant
- Challenging to accommodate this in terms of parent's schedules with end and beginning of day
- End time changes will make it hard to catch buses

Option 2 – pros and cons and comments

- Last 10 minutes of lunch is when many incidents occurs, might be good idea to take away part of the lunch
- Kids might not mind shorter lunch
- Dentist appointments harder if shorten lunches
- Burnaby Mt. currently starts at 8:40 (in class by that time) - hard to get from there to Seaforth if we start at 8:50

Option 3 – pros and cons and comments

- Good for working parents - can get to work on time
- Not good for Burnaby Mt. parents

Option 4 - reducing lunch by 8 minutes – pros and cons and comments

- Extra curricular activities that occur at lunch would be affected by this
- Many parents in the audience seemed to favour this
- Doesn't affect high school schedules
- Ms. Dawe does music at lunch - recorders, violins
- Basket ball and volley ball practices occur at lunch
- French public speaking occurs at lunch
- Wacky Wednesdays occur at lunch
- Intermediate kids - less problem finishing their lunches
- Would reduce incidents at the end of the lunch hour
- Kids won't get as much outside time as they need
- Hot lunch days - this would create a problem

General comments

- Sunflower Daycare should be consulted
- Designated Burnaby Mt. bus - would change their times? Many kids take the transit buses to school.
- The schools that have 2 week spring breaks have not noticed a decrease in student performance.

If parents have any other ideas about where the 8 minutes would go please send those to Mr. Hiltz by email.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE - Cheryl

- The playground is designated as the capital expenditure for donations next year.

- The priority is to replace the gravel
- Meeting tomorrow - Russ Sales - hiring someone new for Tim. Russ is acting. Cheryl will come to meeting tomorrow with Russ.
- Met with University people – got updates on their fundraising. List of grants that they can apply for was provided
- Met with numerous playground companies (3).
- Catalogues were distributed at the meeting.
- This committee welcomes new volunteers
- Asked family social to have an information table set up to provide information about playground options - hope to have a representative from different companies and kids can leave their feedback during the social
- The city of Burnaby does have grant money available - Donna will send the information re: criteria and timeline (\$4000 dollars) to Wendell and Cheryl. Will pass information to Park Designer - Kate Clark - processing and involving children in this kind of development - Donna will pass this information to us as well. Great idea to have some pictures up at the social - voting boxes idea.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Hark Sandhu

- Bank account balances: as of March 31st the general account has \$27,395.84, the gaming account has \$12,284.97. Nothing else has changed. Teacher's wish list money is still unspent - Wendell is addressing this.
- There was an Email from Cathy - numbers have been updated in Munchalunch system - if we want to login to get correct numbers **ACTION ITEMS: MaryAnn to forward email to Hark**

SAFE SCHOOL COMMITTEE – MaryAnn Giardini

- Sun run - 51 people registered - this Sunday. T-shirts and bibs were received today
- Coming up: Igirl presentation: girls grade 4 to 7 - 15 registered so far. It's a go. Activities planned: tea-party, snacks, fun times, talking about girl issues. Still room to register. Themes of this program: I am my own BFF, celebrate your strengths, magazine bodies are make believe, I expect respect, stand up to bullying, I statements, I get the net, Facebook, texting, safety online, I have healthy relationships, friends, family, dating, what you want and deserve. Free, paid for by PAC

FAMILY SOCIAL - Cynthia

- Schedule distributed
- Overlapping events including: Dinner - 5 to 7, Ice cream bar, Silent Auction, Live Auction, 50/50 draw, Crafts/Games, Line dancing instruction, Regular DJ not country, Horseshoes - how does it work - horseshoes are used for any concession foods, ice cream bar, rides, games, crafts, etc.
- Volunteers - Marie is co-ordinating - many students from Mountain -need 35 and hope to get. Still need parent volunteers! Need about an hour of

our time. Please come forward. Silent Auction monitoring - make sure kids don't bid. Volunteer passports - couple horseshoes included. Volunteer horseshoes may not be good for concession. Still to be sorted out.

- Food - remind - need to purchase meal tickets ahead of time please! Limited number will be available night of, you need to buy ahead of time. Class baskets - please donate! Do we remind - do we send email - deadline is this coming Monday. 22nd April!
- Silent/Live Auction - we have been doing a lot of soliciting - not many parent donations! Do we know anyone that could donate? These forms are online as well; if you know anyone that could donate please ask them!
- Volunteer meeting - talk to Marie
- Advertising - Seaforth website - poster contest - that will be all around the school. We got some free signage which will be put up around the neighbourhood.
- We can give it to the DPAC as well to disseminate.
- Government and Brighton, Rummel, Philips, One at top of stairs leading to Lake City station.
- BurnabyNow idea - not allowed putting flyers in the newspapers.
- Attendees so far: 100 people attending so far including kids -
- Passports, meal tickets etc - just over 1000 dollars
- WINNER: Felix Lu early bird draw - White Spot gift card.

COMPUTER ROOM UPGRADES – Wendell Hiltz

- New computers and screens have gone into be ordered. Do not know where order sits as the lady who handles these orders has gone on sick leave. Her replacement is busy.
- We are getting Windows 7, new email program, etc. New software. Ken Kewitz - trying to co-ordinate these 2 endeavours. Tried to contact Ken multiple times and did not hear back.
- Not sure if we will get them before end of school year, with software upgrade.
- Question: the IT disclaimer form that the kids signed - the District is revamping the form and there is desire to ensure the kids understand what it means. Could there be one the parent's sign? The forms were designed for high school kids.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

- Buildings and grounds committee meeting: City and SD 41 meeting to discuss what the city can contribute - the city is bringing in a consultant to determine if a crossing guard may need to move - write a letter to B/G committee to bring up their concerns.
- Ann/Sophia - **ACTION ITEM** - ensures they understand and know they can write a letter.

DPAC UPDATE – Jen Mezei, Patricia Fula

- Jen: meeting coming up: PIE - Parent information - earthquake preparedness - invite our committee - talking about other districts - and what they do.
- District staff - school gardens - parameters to follow - best practices - maybe one of our PAC should attend. Mme Gayton knows about this.
- Assistant secretary treasurer - new PST and GST rules - the way you claim back taxes is changing. We may have to individually ask for our PST back. Last Monday in April will be what the meeting is. **ACTION ITEM: Jen to forward the power point to Hark.**
- Next week presentation - PAC members and everyone - parents are invited.
- Special pilot program for next year - equivalent to IB program - modelled after IB - do extended project - for people taking three or more AP courses. Burnaby is applying to be one of the cities doing this in 2014. Help to develop critical thinking piece in kids. Not just subject based.
- Had to cut 3 million dollars from the budget next year. They have many suggestions, haven't approved it yet. They mentioned that there is going to be a decrease in student enrolment in secondary schools is projected. Burnaby's budget - very conservative in their estimates - we usually have a surplus each year and gets applied to the following year. Enrolment goes down and therefore less budget money.

CPF UPDATE

- First full week of August - French camp being organized.
- Ad for the summer school course - 1 week - Siva is organizing - if it works well they will expand. Used to be a six week. 2 classes with 2 different teachers - with max of 24 - it is at Seaforth now, not at Rummel. On the webreg Parks and Rec. It's in all the kids activity guides - to all of Burnaby. All the French immersions schools should get it. Sperling and Seaforth make up the CPF chapter right now.
- May 1st - French performance

HOT LUNCH

- Unfortunately Siva cannot take over.
- Angela will continue to work with Rishma next year.
- We still need 1 to 2 more people to come forward.
- This is Cathy's last year - Cathy's role: co-ordinates volunteers, sorts the food Rishma drops off. Angela will do this.
- Rishma: buying, ordering, picking up, arranging delivery, have to be able to pay for it upfront and then collect the money back from the PAC.

NEW BUSINESS

- Concern: sexual education seminar – Patricia brought forward a concern after she talked to several parents. The feedback was this: the subjects discussed at Kindergarten level were too strong - too much information,

too detailed (re: condoms and how to make a baby - maybe too much information). Some parents with intermediate children - also felt the content is inappropriate. For example: the idea of condoning that sex can occur in high school is of concern. Suggestion: take into consideration: other options for sexual education: Patricia will send another name to consider. **ACTION ITEM: Patricia to send this alternative to Wendell for consideration.**

- Response to concern: all of her curriculum (Saleema Noon) is on the web. We do give families the option to have their kids not attend. The planning and health is a part of the curriculum question - do kids need to make it up? Answer: possibly, if your child didn't attend should contact their teacher. Saleema noon is quite professional in her talk. But we are open to other presenters. The years that Saleema does not teach this, the teachers are supposed to teach this component.
- Opportunity - seminar - Burnaby's teacher assoc. strengthening ed - flyers provided by Patricia. Question: can we invite our teacher liaison - ask them for their updates and information? **ACTION ITEM: Patricia to speak to Rhylin about inviting Jenny to the meeting.** Many cuts coming, budget, ask the teachers about this. The District pamphlets - BTA DPAC, CUPE, Students all there - disseminate
- Teacher/Volunteer appreciation luncheon - budgeting - how will it work now that these two events are combined? Meeting tomorrow - school - will contribute same amounts.
- Comment: Link for the PAC for Seaforth is not working - difficult to find info - if you want to know when next meeting is - can't find it. The district staff should put the new link in. **ACTION ITEM: Wendell to ask the district to update to new PAC web site.**

Meeting adjourned at: 9:11pm